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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 003245

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/ERA AND EUR/AGS - VIKMANIS-KELLER

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TAGS: [KDEM](#) [KPAL](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [AU](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO AUSTRIA IN ADVANCE OF OCTOBER 3 EU

FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: A. (A) STATE 177048

[1](#)B. (B) VIENNA 3157

[1](#)C. (C) VIENNA 2944

Classified By: Economic-Political Counselor Gregory E. Phillips. Reaso
ns: 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) EconPolCouns delivered ref (a) demarche on
September 28 to Andreas Riecken, the Austrian Foreign
Ministry's European Union "correspondent."

Turkey

[1](#)2. (C) Riecken noted continuing discussions between the
British Presidency and his colleagues in Brussels on the text
of the negotiating framework for Turkish accession
negotiations. Riecken said Austrian Political Director
Thomas Mayr-Harting had told EUR PDAS Volker in a telephone
conversation September 28 that Austria was not arguing for
inclusion of the words "privileged partnership" in the
negotiating framework. Riecken said the Austrian position
remained that which Austrian FM Ursula Plassnik had described
in her August 29 letter to UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw
(ref c). In that letter, Plassnik had called for language on
"specific alternatives to full membership" to appear in the
negotiating framework. Riecken said the Austrian negotiators
thought they were making progress in convincing the British
to make changes to the text (he had no specific language),
and considered the process constructive. "There is still
drafting going on," he said, "and not just on Austrian
issues." He said the Cypriots, for instance, were asking for
bracketed text on Cypriot participation in NATO and PfP --
"but that's not our issue," Riecken said.

Turkey-Croatia

[1](#)3. (C) Riecken reiterated that Austria has no desire for a
"deal" to trade the start of talks with Turkey for the start
of talks with Croatia. That said, Austria very much wanted
"something to be done" on Croatia. "It would be hard to tell
the public that it is possible to start with Turkey, but not
with Croatia," he said.

Croatia

14. (C) Much would depend on what Carla del Ponte said after her visit to Zagreb on Friday, September 30 about Croatia's cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Riecken said. If she said Croatia was cooperating, there would be room for the EU to craft a way to start accession talks with Croatia. For EU members, Riecken said, the definition of cooperation with ICTY was not the presence of Ante Gotovina in the Hague for trial. "No one" in the EU, including the British, takes this position, Riecken asserted. Instead, the aim was for Croatia to prove that it has "destroyed the networks" that protected Gotovina in the past. However, even if del Ponte declared that Croatia was cooperating with ICTY, Austria believed it was necessary to create a mechanism that would keep the pressure on Croatia to continue its cooperation. Austria had proposed establishment of a monitoring structure to perform this function, Riecken said.

15. (C) If del Ponte announced that Croatia was not cooperating with ICTY, it would be hard for the Council to declare that she is wrong, Riecken admitted. There would be at least a few EU member states which would block accession talks under these circumstances.

16. (C) Riecken said Austria believed it was important not to destroy the hopes of Croatia's entire population for the sake of one criminal, Gotovina. If Croatia was now cooperating with ICTY, Austria hoped accession talks could begin immediately.

Western Balkans/Kosovo

17. (C) Austria agrees with our position favoring the start of the future status process. The Austrians think it is not necessary to await the end of Kai Eide's Comprehensive Review to begin the process.

18. (C) Austria plans to invite the Foreign Ministers of the five Western Balkan countries to a meeting on the margins of the March Gymnich meeting in Salzburg. After consideration of whether the meeting would be at Heads of Government or Foreign Ministers' level, Austria has decided on a "Thessaloniki format" at ministerial level. Kosovo will, of course, be one of the topics.

Uzbekistan

19. (C) Riecken said Austria, and the EU as a whole, shares

our concerns. The October 3 GAERC meeting would discuss the specifics of sanctions, including the question of whom to target.

Russia and Russia's Neighbors

110. (C) Riecken said there would be a discussion of the way forward on the EU-Russia relationship. The EU-Russia Summit in London October 4 would, of course, be a primary topic of discussion. Riecken said Austria basically agrees with our points on Georgia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, but he said he did not foresee a discussion of these topics at the October 3 GAERC meeting.

Iraq/Middle East

111. (C) Riecken said he expected a discussion of the Middle East Peace Process on October 3, but not of Iraq. The EU agrees on the importance of supporting Quartet Special Envoy James Wolfensohn, Riecken said.

112. (C) On the UN Holocaust Remembrance Resolution, Riecken said Austria supported the initiative. Riecken said Austria's UN mission had urged the Palestinians not to oppose the resolution, pointing out that it took nothing away from Palestinian or broader Arab interests. Riecken said the Austrian mission expressed frustration that the Palestinians appeared not to accept their argument.

Brown